

## Message Text

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16

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 DODE-00 AGR-20

ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 DRC-01 IGA-02 EB-11 EUR-25

HEW-08 SCI-06 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 /269 W

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P R 200900Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1526

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 840

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: GIRM EMERGENCY AIRLIFT REQUEST

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 795, 831

STATE 186022

BAMAKO FOR PAIGE, FAO

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL GIRM REQUEST ONE USAF C-130  
FOR EMERGENCY GRAIN AIRLIFT NOUAKCHOTT-AIOUN AND NOUAKCHOTT-  
KIFFA FOR 30 DAYS BEGINNING OCTOBER 1.

1. IN SEP 19 MEETING WITH ME, GIRM DROUGHT RELIEF COORDINATOR  
(MINHEALTH OULD BAH) DESCRIBED TRANSPORT SITUATION IN FIRST,  
SECOND AND THIRD REGIONS MAURITANIA AS "IMPOSSIBLE AND UNLIKELY  
IMPROVE THROUGH OCTOBER." CONTINUED RAINS HAVE FORCED HIM  
CANCEL FOR PRESENT ALL PLANS TO ORGANIZE FURTHER TRUCK  
CONVOYS. LAST LOADED TEN-TON TRUCK TO GET THROUGH TO NEMA  
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FROM NOUAKCHOTT TOOK FORTY DAYS. ONLY LANDROVERS NOW ABLE

TO NAVIGATE ENTIRE CROSS-COUNTRY ROUTE.

2. MINISTER HAS STATIONED THIRTEEN TEN-TON TRUCKS EAST OF AREA SEVERED BY RAINS TO SHUTTLE AIRLIFTED GRAIN AND MEDICINES FROM AIOUN AIRPORT TO NEMA AND ENSURE MINIMAL DISTRIBUTIONS IN AIOUN AND KIFFA AS WELL. HE IS TRYING POSITION ADDITIONAL TRANSPORT FOR THIS TASK.

3. OTHER DONOR AIRCRAFT. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, PRESENT AIRLIFT EFFORT IS WINDING DOWN FAST. BOTH SPANISH DC-3S LEFT NOUAKCHOTT SEPT 17, NOT TO BE REPLACED. LIBYAN C-130 IS BADLY IN NEED OF REPAIRS AND MUST RETURN TO BASE BY END THIS WEEK. (LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TELLS ME HE UNABLE ASSURE GIRM IT WILL BE REPLACED.) REMAINING LUFTWAFFE C-160 TRANSAL WILL LEAVE SEPT 21. WHILE MINISTER IS APPEALING FOR IMMEDIATE FURTHER FRG AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE, ONLY SURE AIRLIFT CAPABILITY AFTER SEPT 21 WILL BE PROVIDED BY ONE FRENCH NORD ATLAS WHICH HAS JUST ARRIVED, PRESUMABLY TO BE JOINED BY SECOND NORD FOR WHICH AS YET NO ETA. NORD'S CAPACITY OF ONLY ABOUT THREE TONS, HOWEVER, WILL NOT SATISFY MINIMUM AIRLIFT NEEDS. IF HE CAN GET ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT AND SOLVE REFUELING PROBLEM IN AIOUM MINISTER PLANS STATION NORDS IN AIOUN FOR NEMA SHUTTLE.

4. RE MAURITANIAN SUPPORT, PAK PILOTS OF LIBYAN C-130 CONFIRM THAT MAURITANIAN CREWS CAN LOAD C-130 IN 45 MINUTES AND UNLOAD IN THIRTY. NO JET OR OTHER FUEL SHORTAGES HAVE ARISEN AND MINHEALTH ASSURES HE HAS ARRANGED STEADY RESUPPLY JET FUEL FOR NOUAKCHOTT.

5. NEED. MINISTER ESTIMATES MINIMUM OCTOBER NEEDS OF EASTERN THREE REGIONS AT 2,400 MT DIVIDED EVENLY AMONG THE THREE REGIONS. HE ASKS US TO UNDERTAKE AIRLIFT OF HALF THAT AMOUNT. (HE ASSUMES, WE HOPE REALISTICALLY, THAT FRG WILL AGREE SEND IN FURTHER C-160 TO LIFT BULK OF REMAINDER.)

6. ESTIMATE 1,200 TONS COULD BE TRANSPORTED TO KIFFA/AIOUN BY ONE C-130 MAKING TWO SORTIES PER DAY FOR 30 DAYS. THIS ESTIMATE BASED ON FLIGHT TIME OF THREE HOURS PER ROUND TRIP OVER LONGER LEG NOUAKCHOTT-AIOUN. GERMANS IN TURN COULD UNCLASSIFIED

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LIFT UPWARDS OF 1,000 TONS IN COURSE OF MONTH WITH REMAINING TONNAGE CARRIED BY A FEW NORD ATLAS FLIGHTS FROM NOUAKCHOTT AND, WEATHER PERMITTING, BY OCCASIONAL TRUCK CONVOYS IN LATE OCTOBER.

7. COMMENT. WHAT MUST NOT BE JEOPARDIZED IS STEADY DELIVERY OF FOOD STUFFS TO EAST WHERE GOVT WAS UNABLE BUILD RESERVE FOOD STOCKS IN TIME AND WHERE GENUINE NEED CONTINUES EXIST.

IT RELEVANT TO NOTE THAT WEATHER CYCLE HERE LAGS SEVERAL WEEKS BEHIND THAT IN REST OF SAHELIAN ZONE.

8. ACCORDINGLY REQUEST PRIORITY APPROVAL DETAIL ONE C-130 SO GIRM CAN CARRY OUT THIS LAST STAGE IN ITS PRE-HARVEST FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM. IF USAF C-130 CANNOT BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS MISSION, REPLY SHOULD ADDRESS ALTERNATIVE OF OUR FINANCING COMMERCIAL C-130 RENTAL.

9. FOR BAMAKO. FAO REP PAIGE WHO NOW IN BAMAKO RECEIVED SIMILAR PLEA FROM GIRM FOR HELP WHEN HE IN NOUAKCHOTT EARLIER THIS WEEK. HE SYMPATHETIC BUT STATES NO FUNDS IN FAO HANDS FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE ASKED BE KEPT INFORMED OF OUR DECISION. MURPHY

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